

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A display for a collectible item, comprising:
 - a bubble comprising a transparent capsule which encapsulates a collectible item, the capsule having an outer diameter that is slightly larger than an outer diameter of the collectible item, and a flange extending from an outer perimeter of the capsule;
 - a first support layer comprising a first surface, a second surface, and an opening extending through the layer, the opening having an outer diameter that is sufficient in size to enable the capsule to rotate within the opening, the first layer being arranged such that the flange of the bubble contacts the second surface of the first support layer and wherein a central axis of the capsule of the bubble is substantially collinear with a central axis of the opening of the first layer;
 - a second support layer comprising a first surface and a second surface, the second surface of the second layer being adhered to the second surface of the first layer so that the bubble is supported between the first and second support layers; and
 - an apparatus for rotatably securing the flange of the bubble between the first and second support layers so that the alignment of the collectible item may be adjusted by rotating the bubble relative to the first and second support layers.
2. The display of Claim 1 wherein the second support layer further comprises an opening extending through the second layer, the opening having an outer diameter that is substantially equal to the outer diameter of the capsule, the second layer being arranged such that the flange of the bubble contacts the

second surface of the second layer and a central axis of the capsule of the bubble is substantially collinear with a central axis of the opening of the second layer.

3. The display of Claim 1 wherein the apparatus for rotatably adhering the flange of the bubble between the first layer and second support layers comprises a layer of a smooth, heat-resistant coating applied to a portion of the second surface of at least one of the first support layer and the second support layer such that the flange of the bubble contacts the layer of smooth heat-resistant coating.
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4. The display of Claim 3, wherein the smooth heat-resistant coating comprises a high-gloss UV coating.
- 10 5. The display of Claim 1 wherein the collectible item comprises a coin.
6. The display of Claim 1 further comprising:
15 a third support layer comprising an opening having an outer diameter that is substantially equal to or greater than an outer diameter of the flange of the bubble, the third layer being adhered to the back surface of the first layer and the back surface of the second layer and arranged such that a central axis of the capsule is substantially collinear with a central axis of the opening of the third layer.
7. The display of Claim 6, wherein the third support layer has a thickness that is substantially equal to a thickness of the flange.
- 20 8. The display of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first, second, and third support layers comprise a paper-based material.
9. The display of Claim 8, wherein the paper-based material comprises card stock.

10. The display of Claim 1 wherein the bubble comprises a semi-rigid transparent material.
11. The display of Claim 10, wherein the bubble comprises plastic.
12. The display of Claim 1, further comprising an adhesive layer selectively applied to the second surface of at least one of the first and second support layers, and not applied to the area in which the flange contacts the first and second support layers.
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13. The display of Claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a heat and pressure-activated adhesive.
- 10 14. The display of Claim 1, wherein the display comprises a plurality of bubbles supported between the first and second layers.
15. A method for producing a display for a collectible item, comprising:
encapsulating a collectible item within a bubble, the bubble comprising a transparent capsule which encapsulates the item, and a flange extending from an outer perimeter of capsule;
arranging the bubble between two support layers, at least one of the
15 layers comprising an opening extending through the layer, the opening having an outer diameter that is substantially equal to an outer diameter of the capsule, the bubble being arranged so that a central axis of the capsule is substantially collinear with the central axis of the opening and the flange lies between, and contacts with, the two layers of support material;
20 providing an adhesive between the first and second layers;

providing an apparatus for rotatably securing the flange of the bubble between the first and second support layers so that the rotational alignment of the collectible item may be adjusted by rotating the bubble relative to the first and second support layers; and

5 adhering the first and second support layers together.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the apparatus for rotatably securing the flange of the bubble between the first and second support layers comprises applying a layer of a smooth heat-resistant coating to a portion of at least one of the support layers such that the flange of the bubble contacts the layer of smooth heat-resistant coating.
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17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the smooth heat-resistant coating comprises a high-gloss UV coating.
18. The method of Claim 15 further comprising:
 providing a third support layer comprising an opening extending through
15 the third layer, the opening having an outer diameter that is substantially equal to or greater than an outer diameter of the flange of the bubble, the third layer being adhered to the first and second layers of support material and arranged such that a central axis of the capsule is substantially collinear with the central axis of the opening of the third layer.
- 20 19. The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of adhering the first and second layers together comprises providing heat and pressure to the layers.
20. The method of Claim 15 wherein the collectible item comprises a coin.

21. A display for a collectible item, comprising:
 - a capsule which encapsulates a collectible item, the capsule having an outer dimension that is slightly larger than an outer dimension of the collectible item, and a flange extending from the outer dimension of the capsule;
 - 5 a first support layer comprising a first surface, a second surface, and an opening extending through the layer, the opening having an outer dimension that is sufficient in size to enable the capsule to rotate within the opening, the first layer being arranged such that the flange of the capsule contacts the second surface of the first support layer and wherein a central axis of the capsule is substantially collinear with a central axis of the opening of the first layer;
 - 10 a second support layer comprising a first surface and a second surface, the second surface of the second layer being adhered to the second surface of the first layer so that the capsule is supported between the first and second support layers; and
- 15 an apparatus for rotatably securing the flange of the capsule between the first and second support layers so that the alignment of the collectible item may be adjusted by rotating the capsule relative to the first and second support layers.
22. The display of Claim 21, including a plurality of said capsules.
23. The display of Claim 21, wherein the dimension is a diameter of a circle or a
20 diagonal of a rectangle or square.